

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 12-14 are now pending in the application. Claims 13 and 14 have been added to the present application. Claim 13 depends from objected to Claim 6; whereas, Claim 14 recites subject matter from Claim 12 and objected to Claim 6. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Watanabe et al. (Japanese Publication No. 08-048198). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is believed that the originally filed claims are patentably distinct over this reference. However, in order to expedite prosecution of the application, Applicants have cancelled Claims 1 and 11 and amended Claim 12 to include the limitation of objected to Claim 2 hereby rendering the rejection moot. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe et al. (Japanese Publication No. 08-048198). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is believed that the originally filed claims are patentably distinct over this reference. However, in order to expedite prosecution of the application, Applicants have amended Claim 10 as a dependent claim of objected to Claim 2, hereby rendering

the rejection moot. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

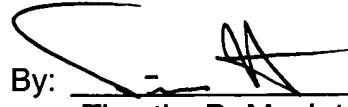
The Examiner states that claims 2-9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant(s) have amended independent claims 2 and 6 to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, claims 2-9 should now be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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